

## Farm Service Agency, USDA

## § 761.8

### § 761.5 Restrictions on lobbying.

A person who applies for or receives a loan made or guaranteed by the Agency must comply with the restrictions on lobbying in 7 CFR part 3018.

### § 761.6 Appeals.

Except as provided in 7 CFR part 762, appeal of an adverse decision made by the Agency will be handled in accordance with 7 CFR parts 11 and 780.

### § 761.7 Appraisals.

(a) *General.* This section describes Agency requirements for:

(1) Real estate and chattel appraisals made in connection with the making and servicing of direct FLP and Non-program loans; and

(2) Appraisal reviews conducted on appraisals made in connection with the making and servicing of direct and guaranteed FLP and Non-program loans.

(b) *Appraisal standards.* (1) Real estate appraisals, technical appraisal reviews and their respective forms must comply with the standards contained in USPAP, as well as applicable Agency regulations and procedures for the specific FLP activity involved. A current copy of USPAP along with other applicable procedures and regulations are available for review in each Agency State Office.

(2) When a chattel appraisal is required, it must be completed on an applicable Agency form (available in each Agency State Office) or other format containing the same information.

(c) *Use of an existing real estate appraisal.* Except where specified elsewhere, when a real estate appraisal is required, the Agency will use the existing real estate appraisal to reach loan making or servicing decisions under either of the following conditions:

(1) The appraisal was completed within the previous 12 months and the Agency determines that:

(i) The appraisal meets the provisions of this section and the applicable Agency loan making or servicing requirements; and

(ii) Market values have remained stable since the appraisal was completed; or

(2) The appraisal was not completed in the previous 12 months, but has been

updated by the appraiser or appraisal firm that completed the appraisal, and both the update and the original appraisal were completed in accordance with USPAP.

(d) *Appraisal reviews.* (1) With respect to a real estate appraisal, the Agency may conduct a technical appraisal review or an administrative appraisal review, or both.

(2) With respect to a chattel appraisal, the Agency may conduct an administrative appraisal review.

### § 761.8 Loan Limitations.

(a) *Dollar limits.* The outstanding principal balances for an applicant or anyone who will sign the promissory note cannot exceed any of the following at the time of loan closing or assumption of indebtedness. If the outstanding principal balance exceeds any of the limits at the time of approval, the farm operating plan must reflect that funds will be available to reduce the indebtedness prior to loan closing or assumption of indebtedness.

(1) Farm Ownership, Downpayment loans, Conservation loans, and Soil and Water loans:

(i) Direct—\$300,000;

(ii) Guaranteed—\$700,000 (for fiscal year 2000 and increased at the beginning of each fiscal year in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section);

(iii) Any combination of a direct Farm Ownership loan, direct Conservation loan, direct Soil and Water loan, guaranteed Farm Ownership loan, guaranteed Conservation loan, and guaranteed Soil and Water loan—\$700,000 (for fiscal year 2000 and increased each fiscal year in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section);

(2) Operating loans:

(i) Direct—\$300,000;

(ii) Guaranteed—\$700,000 (for fiscal year 2000 and increased each fiscal year in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section);

(iii) Any combination of a direct Operating loan and guaranteed Operating loan—\$700,000 (for fiscal year 2000 and increased each fiscal year in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section);

(3) Any combination of guaranteed Farm Ownership loan, guaranteed Conservation loan, guaranteed Soil and

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Water loan, and guaranteed Operating loan—\$700,000 (for fiscal year 2000 and increased each fiscal year in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section);

(4) Any combination of direct Farm Ownership loan, direct Conservation loan, direct Soil and Water loan, direct Operating loan, guaranteed Farm Ownership loan, guaranteed Conservation loan, guaranteed Soil and Water loan, and guaranteed Operating loan—the amount in paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section plus \$300,000;

(5) Emergency loans—\$500,000;

(6) Any combination of direct Farm Ownership loan, direct Conservation loan, direct Soil and Water loan, direct Operating loan, guaranteed Farm Ownership, guaranteed Conservation loan, guaranteed Soil and Water loan, guaranteed Operating loan, and Emergency loan—the amount in paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section plus \$800,000.

(b) *Guaranteed loan limit.* The dollar limits of guaranteed loans will be increased each fiscal year based on the percentage change in the Prices Paid by Farmers Index as compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. The maximum loan limits for the current fiscal year are available in any FSA office and on the FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

(c) *Line of credit advances.* The total dollar amount of guaranteed line of credit advances and income releases cannot exceed the total estimated expenses, less interest expense, as indicated on the borrower's cash flow budget, unless the cash flow budget is revised and continues to reflect a feasible plan.

[72 FR 63285, Nov. 8, 2007, as amended at 73 FR 74345, Dec. 8, 2008; 75 FR 54012, Sept. 3, 2010]

### §761.9 Interest rates for direct loans.

Interest rates for all direct loans are set in accordance with the Act. A copy of the current interest rates may be obtained in any Agency office.

### §761.10 Planning and performing construction and other development.

(a) *Purpose.* This section describes Agency policies regarding the planning and performing of construction and other development work performed with:

(1) Direct FLP loan funds; or  
(2) Insurance or other proceeds resulting from damage or loss to direct loan security.

(b) *Funds for development work.* The applicant or borrower:

(1) Must provide the Agency with an estimate of the total cash cost of all planned development prior to loan approval;

(2) Must show proof of sufficient funds to pay for the total cash cost of all planned development at or before loan closing;

(3) Must not incur any debts for materials or labor or make any expenditures for development purposes prior to loan closing with the expectation of being reimbursed from Agency loan funds.

(c) *Scheduling, planning, and completing development work.* The applicant or borrower:

(1) Is responsible for scheduling and planning development work in a manner acceptable to the Agency and must furnish the Agency information fully describing the planned development, the proposed schedule, and the manner in which it will be accomplished;

(2) Is responsible for obtaining all necessary State and local construction approvals and permits prior to loan closing;

(3) Must ensure that all development work meets the environmental requirements established in subpart G of 7 CFR part 1940;

(4) Must schedule development work to start as soon as feasible after the loan is closed and complete work as quickly as practicable;

(5) Is responsible for obtaining any required technical services from qualified technicians, tradespeople, and contractors.

(d) *Construction and repair standards.*

(1) The construction of a new building and the alteration or repair of an existing building must conform with industry-acceptable construction practices and standards.

(2) All improvements to a property must conform to applicable laws, ordinances, codes, and regulations.

(3) The applicant or borrower is responsible for selecting a design standard that meets all applicable local and